



The INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GROUPPSYCHOTHERAPY AND GROUP PROCESS.

Welcomes you to the seminar

Groups-In-the-City

Arranged by the XX IAGP Congress:

Friday the 3rd of August starting at 19:00

Venue: Malmö City's Meeting place and Library: **GARAGET, Lönngatan 30.**

Basis for the Seminar: Social cohesion, wellbeing and development of the society depend, to a major extent, on sufficient solidarity and dialogue between its inhabitants and their surrounding structures and organizations, in Malmö City as well as elsewhere. The town has through its long history in many ways benefitted greatly from good dialogues between its people and their communal context, interacting with its trade, industry, socio-economic and cultural development. Yet, problems and complications, resulting in conflict and violence, have also appeared during its history, in different periods and town areas, through various social, cultural and economic citizen strata. Thus: social unrest has appeared, later been looked upon as done away with, in order, sometimes, to reappear again, similarly to what has happened in other comparable, modern, post-industrial societies.

If and when dialogues fail, temporarily or for longer time, then rioting, and risks for manifest violence and open fights arise and increase. This is, sadly, everyday experience in too many societies and regions, in Western Europe as well as in all other areas of the Globe. There are no easy remedies, or *quick fixes*, available against failures in social dialogues. Only more long-term-rooted and stable networking, creating improved dialogues over contended barriers, will have chances to help. In this direction there has in fact, in recent years, been made interesting development work internationally. This refers to social projects, conducted by group researchers, group therapists and sociologically experienced organizational consultants, especially

among IAGP members, who have been engaged in problem areas in different places, as contents of this XX IAGP Congress will show, here in Malmö.



Groups-in-the-City, examples from two projects:

In *Serbia* and its neighbor states, formed after the dissolution of Yugoslavia - which gave rise to cruel wars during the 1990's - under the heading of *Reflective Citizens* regularly arranged median- or large groups are used, building up and maintaining dialogues around post-war wounds and conflicts, which have not yet been worked-through. Such series of meetings in Belgrade and other places are now established since a decade, using verbal methods with slow but obvious progress.

In *Brazil* major socio-economic and ethnic conflicts in mega-cities, due to major class- and ethnic differences and rivalries, are approached by regular large group meetings over conflict barriers using verbal and Sociodramatic methods. With slow but promising results.

This seminar: We will work in a *learning-by-doing* group structure. The overall size of the seminar will be around 50 participants including 5-6 staff members. The structure will contain large group reflections and exchanges, alternating with small group dialogues. There will be no formal lectures but reflections will contain perspectives upon *Groups-in-the-City* projects also elsewhere. The seminar language is English. There is no pre-arranged translation, only spontaneous ones may occur between those sitting next.

Participation in this seminar will hardly offer any long-lasting solutions to present day social problematic, but can create knowledge and, maybe, some hope about, what group process knowledge and group research contributions are able to offer.

Interested inhabitants of Malmö are warmly welcome. Their views and experiences are central and necessary. Congress participants are welcome. Organizers of this seminar, also warmly invite participation from Malmö City, its welfare, culture departments, police and law departments. And from Malmö University, its relevant research and education departments and faculties; and from trade and factory HR departments. Warmly welcome are, as well, persons involved in organizations and networks working with social integration, religions, ethnicity, gender and migration in all different aspects.

No entrance fee to the seminar. Welcome to register to the Congress bureau
www.iagpcongress.org before 20th of July!